

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a patient by inhibiting T-type calcium channels in a patient's cells, wherein said patient is suffering from chronic heart failure, congestive heart failure, ischemic condition, arrhythmia, hypertension, hypoinsulinemia, hyperinsulinemia, ~~diabetes mellitus~~[[,]] hyperaldosteronemia, epilepsy[[,]]-~~a neurodegenerative disease~~ or preterm labor, comprising administering to said patient a composition comprising an amount of an extract of *Hypericum perforatum* effective to inhibit the movement of calcium ions into cells and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 45, wherein said patient is a human.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein said effective amount is about 0.05 mg to 500 mg per kg body weight of said patient.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein said extract of *Hypericum perforatum* is a methanol or ethanol extract of *Hypericum perforatum*.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the health disorder is chronic heart failure.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein said health disorder is congestive heart failure.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein said health disorder is ischemic condition.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein said health disorder is arrhythmia.

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein said health disorder is hypertension.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein said health disorder is hypoinsulinemia.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein said health disorder is hyperinsulinemia.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein said health disorder is hyperaldosteronemia.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein said health disorder is epilepsy.

60. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein said health disorder is a neurogenerative disease.

61. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein said health disorder is preterm labor.

62. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 45, wherein one or more components of said extract other than hypericin contribute to the inhibition of the T-cell calcium current.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein said composition consists essentially of an effective amount of an extract of *Hypericum perforatum*.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein said effective amount is about 0.5 mg to 50 mg per kg body weight of said patient.